

Dear Chairman Martin:

Please stop this nation from becoming a corporatocracy. Average Americans need representation that is meaningful. We need a broadcast system we can trust.

I am writing to challenge the Comcast/Time Warner/Adelphia merger (FCC Docket No. 05-192) and the AT&T/BellSouth merger (FCC Docket No. 06-74). Allowing the largest telecommunications company and the two largest cable companies in the United States to grow even larger does not serve the public interest.

The concentration of media power is a growing problem in this country. Though we have more channels available than ever before, they are increasingly falling under the control of a handful of giant corporations. The cost of broadband service also remains out of reach for many households. Americans are hungry for more competition in services. However, these mergers will only starve Americans of this needed competition.

Allowing AT&T to combine with BellSouth will give the top three broadband providers control of over half of all broadband connections in the country. At the same time, the Time Warner/Comcast/Adelphia merger will give Comcast and Time Warner increased power over entire regions of the United States, allowing rates to rise even as the digital divide continues to grow.

STOP THE MERGERS AND GET BACK TO FAIRNESS FOR AMERICANS. MANY SCHOLARS NOW BELIEVE WE ARE A DEMOCRACY IN NAME ONLY BECAUSE OF LIMITED INFORMATION--ADDITIONALLY--AMERICANS DO NOT WANT HOMOGENEOUS NEWS AND INFORMATION--WE WANT LIMITS ON THIS NEW FUNDAMENTALISM THAT ELEVATES MARKET PHILOSOPHY ABOVE ALL ELSE--PLEASE REREAD ADAM SMITH--HE RECOMMENDED LIMITING LARGE CORPORATIONS SINCE THEY RARELY LOOK OUT FOR PUBLIC INTEREST.

DIVERSITY IS THE FOUNDATION--NOT CONSOLIDATION!

The FCC should block these transactions, since I do not believe the FCC will ever impose strict conditions to protect free speech and competition under its "public interest standard." If the FCC decides to allow either of these mergers, it should require the following conditions:

1. Subscribers must be able to choose from competitive Internet Service Providers ("open access") that includes at least one free local provider. The FCC should also ensure that these companies cannot discriminate against any Internet content or rival service and that every service will be treated exactly the same ("Network Neutrality"). The payola and blackmail schemes should be enforced by license forfeiture from the first breach. Enforcement should be funded up-front if these transactions are allowed. This means that a certain amount of the budget for the FCC needs to be allocated

strictly to these enforcement efforts.

2. Companies must be required to sell broadband access separate from video and telephone service, and at the same price ("naked broadband" or "unbundling"). Many users need only broadband, since they use other telephone services, including the internet.

3. Any subscriber must be able to connect any device to the network (such as a Wi-Fi router) that does not harm the network.

4. Take steps to protect public access programming ("PEG"). Cable companies have become less responsive to the needs and requirements of communities. The quality of public accountability in local franchise agreements has declined, as big companies leverage their power to squeeze local governments. Likewise, telecommunications giants — like AT&T — are trying to eliminate the remaining vestiges of effective local oversight and control altogether.

5. Independent programmers must be able to reach subscribers. We are required to buy channels we don't want or need because providers of video service bundle them together.

6. Any company that owns both programming and video systems should be required to provide competitors with access to their regional sports and other programming needed to offer competing services, so consumers will still have real choices.

7. We need free farrow bandwidth dedicated to the public and we need the fairness doctrine reinstated--all licensees should show a certain amout of public service broadcasting and the programming should be diversified to include a certain percentage of local content and

8. THE CPB SHOULD BE FULLY FUNDED AND PUBLIC BROADCASTING SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE--We currently see an oligopoly--and this must be changed...do not make it worse by allowing these mergers.

9. Multiple free local portals need to be given to the public--expanding the definition of edu-cational broadcasting might help-especially since now the public has become less and less mobile because of debt and utility prices. Average Americans are desperate for the free flow of information to remain competitive--they can only afford so much--do not allow these corporations to gouge the public economically or informationally.

In conclusion, I ask the FCC to consider the interests of the people like me who pay the cable, telephone and broadband bills and sometimes watch the programming. Many of us already have enough trouble trying to afford broadband or cable TV. Please don't make it even harder for us to find

competitors, or make it easier for Comcast, Time Warner and AT&T to raise prices or block local and independent voices.

AND PLEASE INVESTIGATE AT&T, Bell South, Verizon, and the rest--they need to be held accountable for giving telephone numbers and call records to the NSA. (get a grip on privacy issues before there is no credibility left--this is a massive problem that the FCC may be able to help congress to understand).